Ethnobiology

A Pathway to Integration and Collaboration Across Peoples, Lands, and Programs

Planning CoP Conference
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Based on the work of:
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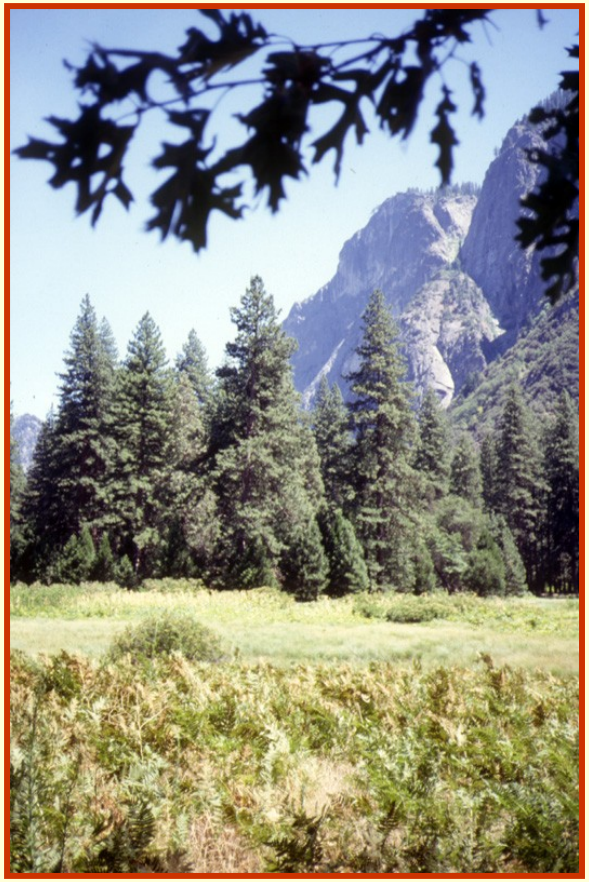
Purpose

- Introduce Field of Ethnobiology
- Share Examples of What Others Have Done
- Suggest Practical Ways to Apply the Concepts and Techniques to the Corps' Civil Works Program to…



…Facilitate integration and collaboration across peoples, lands, and programs…

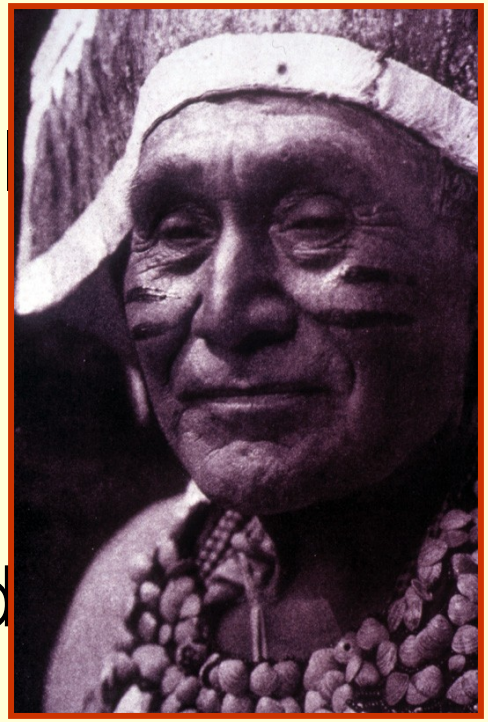
Definition of Ethnobiology

Emphasizes the past and present **ecological, evolutionary, economic and cultural interrelationships of humans in traditional and lay societies with their plants and animals**, as a means of understanding the place and future of humans in the biosphere.

(Cornell University)

Key Takeaway

The decline of natural systems in the state is intimately tied with the diminishment of the native cultural heritage. This cultural wealth –the vast experience of native cultures in how to use, management, respect and coexist with these other lifeforms— is valuable and could be part of serious conservation and restoration efforts…



(Anderson 1996)

What Others Have Done

U.C. Davis

- Michelle Stevens, Ph.D.

National Park Service

- Yosemite National Park

U.S. Forest Service

- Tahoe National Forest

Natural Resources Conservation Service

- M. Kat Anderson, Ph.D., National Ethnobiologist, Plant Data Center

Application to the Corps' Civil Works Planning Process

Relevance

Integrating and Collaborating

- Watersheds
- Collaboration
- Inclusion

Project Phase

- Planning
- Design & Construction
- Operation & Maintenance

Practical First Steps

- **Redefine Goal: Restore and sustain ecosystems and cultures**
- **Change view of planning team membership and roles**
- **Include traditional ecologica knowledge and lay kn in planning**

- **Include culturally relevant objectives**
- **Collaborate and partner for long-term sustainability and interactive management and relationship**

Key Takeaway Points

Nature and culture…

- are interrelated.
- ethnobiology is a discipline that focuses on this area.
- EB and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) can inform aspects of Civil Works Planning.

Others are incorporating ethnobiology and TEK into land use planning & management.

EB has relevance for Corps' CW Program.

- Has practical applications to Planning Process
- some things can be implemented simply and immediately.
- Invites integration & collaboration across peoples, lands, and programs